

or incentives to make investments in proper land and water management. Poor land and water management, especially when combined with periodic droughts, are the primary causes of desertification. Other factors include overcultivation, overgrazing, single-crop farming on fragile soil, slash-and-burn land clearing methods, and improper irrigation practices. These factors are often compounded by unwise government policies and the pressure of explosive population growth. When formerly productive farm and pastoral land is degraded, it creates a downward spiral of poverty and rural out-migration—often to the already overcrowded cities. We saw this during our own “Dust Bowl.”

I was only a small child in the 1930s. I never met impoverished farmers dislocated by the “Dust Bowl.” But I have witnessed first hand the effects of desertification in Indonesia and Africa. I saw first hand how hard farmers are fighting to hold on to arable land in the face of huge environmental changes brought on by cutting of the rainforests or overgrazing of arid lands. And I saw the resulting poverty and dislocation that then grip these areas.

Through our foreign aid programs, we are assisting afflicted regions. But we could use our resources more efficiently by joining 124 other nations in ratifying the U.N. Convention to Combat Desertification in Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and /or Desertification, Particularly in Africa. As the Administration began to sharpen its focus on Africa prior to the President's recent trip, it decided to make U.S. ratification a priority. On the occasion of World Day to Combat Desertification, I urge my colleagues to take a look at this treaty and reflect for a moment on the benefits to the U.S. of Senate ratification.

The treaty is in the best interest of the United States. Our agriculture industry, American universities, and our non-governmental organizations have considerable expertise in combating desertification. Businesses like Monsanto, Land O' Lakes, and the Chocolate Manufacturers Association are supporting the treaty because it will increase U.S. business opportunities. Ratification will also increase export of American technical assistance in erosion control. The Irrigation Association supports it because many of its members produce world-class irrigation and water control equipment. After ratification, the U.S. may submit names of its desertification experts and consultants for the international Roster of Independent Experts who are available to provide services.

The treaty does not commit the U.S. to any specific level of foreign assistance. Rather, it asks governments of developed nations to channel existing bilateral and multilateral aid funds through a new mechanism that will provide improved coordination and better use of donor resources. The treaty obligates recipient nations to develop

actions plans “from the bottom up” to combat regional and local desertification. The treaty is remarkable because it calls upon local communities to take the lead in identifying their problems and selecting the best solutions for their particular situations.

On World Day to Combat Desertification, let's not forget our own grim experience with desertification and the “Dust Bowl.” Let's join the other nations that have ratified the Convention to Combat Desertification and prevent a reoccurrence of this tragedy elsewhere.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MEASURES RECOMMITTED

Pursuant to Section 312(f) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the following bill was recommitted as indicated:

S. 1415. A bill to reform and restructure the process by which tobacco products are manufactured, marked distributed, to prevent the use of tobacco products by minors, to redress the adverse health effects of tobacco use, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-5529. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a Presidential Determination (98-22) relative to sanctions against India for the detonation of a nuclear explosive device; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5530. A communication from the Secretary of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “The Animal Welfare Enforcement Report for Fiscal Year 1997”; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5531. A communication from the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Listing of Several Evolutionarily Significant Units of West Coast Steelhead” (RIN1018-AE97) received on June 12, 1998; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5532. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management

and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule regarding gasoline volatility requirements for the Pittsburgh-Beaver Valley Ozone Nonattainment Area (FRL6102-9) received on June 12, 1998; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5533. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “OMB Approval numbers Under the Paperwork Reduction Act” (FRL6111-4) received on June 12, 1998; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5534. A communication from the Secretary of the Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the operation of the Premerger Notification Program for fiscal year 1997; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-5535. A communication from the Commissioner of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule amending regulations on nonimmigrant students seeking off-campus employment (RIN1115-AF15) received on June 12, 1998; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-5536. A communication from the Commissioner of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule regarding employment of dependents of NATO personnel stationed in the United States (RIN1115-AB52) received on June 12, 1998; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-5537. A communication from the Commissioner of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Effect of Parole of Cuban and Haitian Nationals on Resettlement Assistance Eligibility” (RIN1115-AE29) received on June 12, 1998; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-5538. A communication from the Deputy Director for Policy and Programs, Community Development Financial Institutions Fund, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Notice Inviting Applications to the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Microenterprise Development” (No. 981-0158) received on June 9, 1998; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5539. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Social Security Administration Cost Assignment Methodology Review”; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5540. A communication from the Chief of the Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Federal Employment Tax Deposits—De Minimis Rule” (RIN1545-AW29) received on June 15, 1998; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5541. A communication from the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the Office of Inspector General for the period October 1, 1997 through March 31, 1998; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-5542. A communication from the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the Office of Inspector General for the period October 1, 1997 through March 31, 1998; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-5543. A communication from the Acting Comptroller General of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a list of General Accounting Office reports for the month

of April 1998; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-5544. A communication from the Secretary of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a management report associated with the report of the Office of Inspector General for the period October 1, 1997 through March 31, 1998; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-5545. A communication from the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Voluntary Early Retirement Authority" (RIN3206-AI25) received on June 15, 1998; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-5546. A communication from the Members of the Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report on the Railroad Retirement Account; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC-5547. A communication from the Director of the Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule regarding an amended economic analysis of labeling requirements for medical devices containing natural rubber (Docket 96N-0119) received on June 15, 1998; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC-5548. A communication from the Director of the Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medical Devices; Classification/Reclassification of Immunohisto-chemistry Reagents and Kits" (RIN0910-ZA10) received on June 15, 1998; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC-5549. A communication from the Director of the Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule regarding nutrition labeling and ingredient labeling of dietary supplements (RIN0910-AA59) received on June 15, 1998; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC-5550. A communication from the Director of the Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revocation of Lather Brushes Regulation; Correction" (RIN1105-AA20) received on June 15, 1998; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC-5551. A communication from the Director of the Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Beverages: Bottled Water; Correction" (Docket 98N-0294) received on June 15, 1998; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC-5552. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on Public Health Service programs for fiscal year 1997; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC-5553. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the disposal of excess and surplus materials for fiscal year 1998; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5554. A communication from the Director of Naval Nuclear Propulsion, Department of the Navy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program's reports for 1997; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5555. A communication from the Director of Administration and Management, Of-

fice of the Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Private Organizations on DoD Installations" (RIN0790-AG53) received on June 15, 1998; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5556. A communication from the Director of Administration and Management, Office of the Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Conduct on the Pentagon Reservation" received on June 15, 1998; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5557. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Technology), transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Contractor Use of Nonimmigrant Aliens—Guam" (Case 97-D318) received on June 12, 1998; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5558. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Technology), transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Contract Distribution to Defense Finance and Accounting Service Offices" (Case 97-D039) received on June 12, 1998; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5559. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Technology), transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Antiterrorism Training" (Case 97-D016) received on June 12, 1998; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5560. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Technology), transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Use of Auctions, Spot Bids, or Retail Sales of Surplus Contractor Inventory by the Contractor" (Case 97-D004) received on June 12, 1998; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5561. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Exports of Humanitarian Goods and Services to Cuba" (RIN0694-AB49) received on June 11, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5562. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Effect of Imported Articles on the National Security" (RIN0694-AB58) received on June 11, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5563. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Priorities and Allocations System" (RIN0694-AB58) received on June 11, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5564. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator for Procurement, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of two rules regarding revisions to the NASA FAR supplement and to the NASA grant handbook received on June 15, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5565. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator for Procurement, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "NASA FAR

Supplement; Miscellaneous Changes" received on June 15, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5566. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the National Transportation Safety Board's recommendations to the Secretary for calendar year 1997; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5567. A communication from the Director of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "NOAA Climate and Global Change Program, Program Announcement" (RIN0648-ZA39) received on June 15, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5568. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Low Speed Vehicles" (RIN2127-AG58) received on June 15, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5569. A communication from the Acting Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, the cumulative report on rescissions and deferrals dated June 9, 1998; referred jointly, pursuant to the order of January 30, 1975, as modified by the order of April 11, 1986, to the Committee on Appropriations, to the Committee on the Budget, to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, to the Committee on Environment and Public Works, to the Committee on Finance, to the Committee on Foreign Relations, to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. THOMPSON, from the Committee on Governmental Affairs:

Deidre A. Lee, of Oklahoma, to be Administrator for Federal Procurement Policy.

G. Edward DeSeve, of Pennsylvania, to be Deputy Director for Management, Office of Management and Budget.

(The above nominations were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed, subject to the nominees' commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. AKAKA:

S. 2181. A bill to amend section 3702 of title 38, United States Code, to make permanent the eligibility of former members of the Selected Reserve for veterans housing loans; to the Committee on Veterans Affairs.

By Mr. GORTON (for himself, Mr. KERREY, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. BUMPERS, and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 2182. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax-exempt bond financing of certain electric facilities; to the Committee on Finance.